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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,682	09/30/2003	J. Edward Colgate	007448-0306121	1344

909 7590 10/06/2004
PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP
P.O. BOX 10500
MCLEAN, VA 22102

EXAMINER

TRAN, KHOI H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3651

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/673,682	COLGATE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Khoi H Tran	3651

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 August 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3,13,18,26 and 28-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-12,14-17,19-25 and 27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

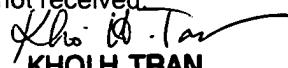
Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


KHOI H. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02/04 & 03/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant election with traverse of Species I, claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14, and 33 in paper No. 08/20/2004 is acknowledged.

The traversal is on the ground that since Species V encompasses a method, it should be treated as an invention that is related to Species I-IV, and not as an embodiment of the same claimed invention. This argument is not persuasive. Species V is in fact directed to another embodiment, different from Species I-IV. In Species V, the characteristic of motion of the trolley is determined based on the tension of the cable, and the detected tension is compared with a predetermined threshold value to control the movements of the trolley. Species I-IV comprise different means to determine the characteristic motion of the trolley and different means to adjust the movements of the trolley.

The traversal is on the ground that the invention would required common or non-burdensome search and do not comprise independent and distinct inventions. This is not found persuasive because while there may or may not be overlapping searches for each of the defined inventions, the divergent subject matter contained in the nonelected group(s) or invention(s) would warrant significant additional consideration and additional prosecution procedures if addressed on the merits. Additionally, the Examiner remains of the position that the inventions as defined in the previous restriction requirement comprise distinct and independent inventions as discussed in the last Office Action. The requirement is still deemed proper and hereby made Final.

It has been determined that claims 15-17, 19-25, and 27 also read upon the elected embodiment. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-17, 19-25, and 27 will be examined herewith.

Claims 3,13,18, 26, and 28-34 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected Species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before

November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 11, 14-17, 19, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Laundry et al. 6,796,447.

Laundry '447 discloses an intelligent assist device (IAD) per claimed invention. The IAD comprises an overhead moveable trolley (Figures 1 and 2). The IAD comprises a cable 21 that extends down from said trolley and connecting to a load 20. The IAD comprises an angle sensor 25 coupled to the cable to sense a characteristic of motion imparted by a human operator to the load 20. The IAD comprises a controller operatively coupled with the sensor and the trolley to control the movements of the trolley. Said controller estimates an amount of oscillation in the cable that does not correspond to the motion imparted by the human operator and adjusts the movements of the trolley based thereon. Said controller filters at least a portion of the signals from the sensor that are indicative of the oscillation in the support.

4. Claims 1 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Taylor 6,575,317.

Taylor '317 discloses an intelligent assist device (IAD) per claimed invention. The IAD comprises an overhead moveable trolley (Figures 1 and 2). The IAD comprises a cable 21 that extends down from said trolley and connecting to a load 20. The IAD comprises sensor 25 coupled to the cable to sense a characteristic of motion imparted by a human operator 11 to the load 20.

The IAD comprises a controller operatively coupled with the sensor and the trolley to control the movements of the trolley. Said controller estimates an amount of oscillation in the cable that does not correspond to the motion imparted by the human operator and adjusts the movements of the trolley based thereon.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 5-7, 9, 10, and 20-22, 24, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laundry et al. 6,796,447 in view of Kato et al. 6,460,711.

In regards to claims 5, 9, 20, and 24 Laundry '447 discloses all elements per claimed invention as explained in paragraph 3 above. However, it is silent as to the explicit mentioning of a plurality of low pass filters and band pass filter for filtering out portion of the signals from the angle sensor.

Kato '711 discloses an anti-oscillation system for a moving trolley. Kato teaches that low pass filter and band pass filter can be used to filter out noises from detected signals.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided to Laundry '447 with plurality of

low pass filters and band pass filter because they filter out noises from the detected signals, as shown by Kato '711.

In regards to claims 6, 7, 10, 21, 22, and 25, Laundry '447 discloses all elements per claimed invention as explained above. However, it is silent as to the explicit mentioning of a low cut-off frequency of about 0.5 Hz, or 1.5 Hz, and a high cut-off frequency of about 5.0Hz.

Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have provided to Laundry '447 filters with a low cut-off frequency of about 0.5 Hz, or 1.5 Hz, and a high cut-off frequency of about 5.0Hz, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. In re Boesch, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

7. Claims 8 and 23 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laundry et al. 6,796,447 in view of Kato et al. 6,460,711 as applied to claims 5 and 19 above, and further in view of Yucius 4,284,978.

Laundry '447 discloses all elements per claimed invention as explained above. However, it is silent as to the explicit mentioning of a rectifier.

Yucius '978 shows that rectifier can be used to rectify signals within a control system.

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided to Laundry '447 with a rectifier because it facilitates the rectifying of signals from the detected signals within a control system, as shown by Yucius '978.

8. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Laundry et al. 6,796,447 in view of Peshkin 6,668,668.

Laundry '447 discloses all elements per claimed invention as explained in paragraph 3 above. However, it is silent as to the specifics of the cable 21 being in the form of a chain.

Peshkin '668 discloses of an overhead-motorized moveable trolley system. Peshkin '447 teaches that the support cable 24 can be in the form of a chain for supporting a load 26 (Figure 1).

It would have been obvious for a person with ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have provided to Laundry '447 with a chain that extends from the trolley because it facilitates the supporting of a load, as taught by Peshkin '668.

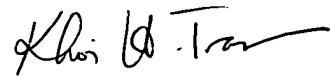
Conclusion

9. Additional references made of record and not relied upon are considered to be of interest to applicant's disclosure: see attached USPTO Form 892.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khoi H Tran whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Ellis can be reached on (703) 308-1113. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Khoi H Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3651

KHT
09/29/2004